

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 100498
ORIGIN EA-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 H-03 SS-07 NSC-06 AID-01
/032 R

DRAFTED BY EA/IMS:DTKENNEY:LGR
APPROVED BY EA/IMS:EDWARD C. INGRAHAM
-----041042Z 122664 /10

R 040125Z MAY 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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E.O. 11652:NA

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, SHUM, ID, PT, AS, OREP (GOODLING, WILLIAM)

SUBJECT:GOODLING REPORT ON VISIT TO EAST TIMOR

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF REPORT BY CONGRESSMAN GOODLING ON HIS TRIP TO EAST TIMOR INCLUDED IN CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 26. CONGRESSWOMAN MEYNER'S REPORT IS STILL IN PREPARATION, BUT WOULD APPEAR FROM DRAFT TEXTS TO BE SOMEWHAT MORE CRITICAL OF GOI EFFORTS TO RESTRICT ACCESS TO TIMORESE.

2. QUOTE: AFTER APPROXIMATELY 63 HOURS OF FLYING TIME AND 25 HOURS OF SLEEP OVER A SEVEN DAY PERIOD, I WOULD OFFER THE FOLLOWING SUMMARY OF MY FINDINGS, IMPRESSIONS, AND CONCLUSIONS OF THE TRIP I WAS REQUESTED TO MAKE INTO EAST TIMOR, WHICH HAS JUST RECENTLY BECOME PART OF INDONESIA AFTER 400 PLUS YEARS OF PORTUGUESE RULE.

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AS A WAY OF BACKGROUND, TWO SUBCOMMITTEES OF THE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE, UNDER THE CO-CHAIRMANSHIP OF CONGRESSMAN WOLFE AND FRASER, HELD HEARINGS CONCERNING THE USE OF AMERICAN ARMS BY THE INDONESIANS WHILE ATTEMPTING TO END THE CIVIL WAR IN EAST TIMOR. THE WAR BROKE OUT WHEN PORTUGAL LEFT EAST TIMOR BEFORE SUCCESSFULLY ARRANGING A

PEACEFUL TAKEOVER BY THE THREE MAJOR TIMORESE FACTIONS.

UNFORTUNATELY, THE ONE GROUP -- FRETILIN -- FELL HEIR TO PROBABLY AS MANY AS 15,000 WEAPONS. AFTER THE APPARENT KILLING AND TORTURING OF MANY THOUSAND TIMORESE, THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT MOVED IN.

I FLEW FROM WASHINGTON TO TOKYO AND ON TO JAKARTA (APPROXIMATELY 21 HOURS). OUR AMBASSADOR IN JAKARTA "LEANED ON" GENERAL M. PANGGABEAN, COMMANDER OF INDONESIAN FORCES, TO PERMIT MY ENTERING EAST TIMOR -- SOMETHING THAT HAS NOT BEEN PERMITTED SINCE THE FALL OF 1975. HOWEVER, OUR SEVEN SEATER AIR FORCE PLANE, BASED IN JAKARTA, WAS ONLY PERMITTED TO GO AS FAR AS KUPANG IN WEST TIMOR. AN INDONESIAN BUSH PILOT CREW TOOK ME ON TO DILI IN EAST TIMOR ACCOMPANIED BY AL LEHN AND CHUCK GREEN OF THE EMBASSY -- TWO TREMENDOUS PARTNERS -- AS WELL AS COL. SUBIAKTO, COL. DAMANIK AND MR. DAHLAN OF THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT, WHICH MADE IT A SEVEN HOUR TRIP.

WE WERE MET BY MORE THAN 12,000 TIMORESE AND WE TRAVELED FROM DILI TO BACAU TO VIQUEQUE TO BOBONARO VIA "BUSH PILOT," HELICOPTER AND JEEP TRANSPORTATION. AS I SHOOK SOME 6,000 HANDS OF MANY TIMORESE WHO WALKED AS MUCH AS 10 MILES TO GREET US, THE CRY WAS THE SAME, FROM TRIBAL CHIEFS TO CIVIL AUTHORITIES, TO THE BISHOP, THE SPANISH AND ITALIAN PRIESTS, AND THE SPANISH NUNS AND THE MASSES WHOSE EDUCATION WAS NEGLECTED BY THE PORTUGUESE: "PLEASE LET'S PUT THE HORRIBLE CIVIL WAR WITH ALL ITS ATROCITIES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BEHIND US AND MOVE AHEAD TOWARD A HOPEFULLY BETTER NEW LIFE."

I LISTENED TO AN ELDERLY PORTUGUESE GENTLEMAN WHO HAS LIVED IN EAST TIMOR FOR 41 YEARS TELL OF THE NATURAL DEATH OF HIS WIFE, THE MURDER OF TWO OF HIS SONS BY THE FRETILIN AND THE STORY OF HOW HIS THIRD SON IS THE FINANCE MINISTER OF THESE VERY SAME FRETILIN. THE BISHOP INDICATED IT WAS WAR AND BOTH SIDES WERE GUILTY -- THE FRETILIN ATROCITIES CAUSED BECAUSE THE FRETILIN LEADERSHIP ORDERED IT AND THE INDONESIAN IMPROPRIETIES BECAUSE OF THE ACTIONS OF INDIVIDUAL SOLDIERS. YOUNG PRIESTS IN BACCAU EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THERE MAY BE MORE FRETILIN ACTION YET TO COME THAN THE TIMORESE CIVIL AUTHORITIES THINK -- OPINION SOMEWHAT SHARED BY THE SISTERS IN BOBONARO WHO, IT WOULD APPEAR, HAVE SOME CONTACT WITH THE FRETILIN. I WAS ENTERTAINED BY A BROTHER OF HORTA, A LEADING FRETILIN, WHO APPARENTLY HAS BEEN GIVEN A THREE MONTH VISA TO COME TO THE UNITED STATES. THE TEENAGE BROTHER IS THE SOLOIST

AND LEAD GUITARIST IN ONE OF THE VICE GOVERNOR'S NEWLY FORMED BANDS. MANY TIMORESE BELIEVE THE SEVERAL SHIPMENTS

OF GUNS AND AMMUNITION THAT CAME IN DURING THE WAR WERE BROUGHT BY THE AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS -- A VIEW, APPARENTLY SHARED BY THE GOVERNOR BUT NOT BY THE VICE GOVERNOR WHO BELIEVES THEY WERE IMPOSTERS CARRYING AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS FLAGS. MANY TRAGIC TALES WERE REPEATED OVER AND OVER AGAIN RESULTING IN, PERHAPS, 40,000 TO 60,000 DEATHS.

THE FOLLOWING ARE MY CONCLUSIONS:

1. YES, THE INDONESIANS DID USE AMERICAN ARMS, ALTHOUGH THEY TRIED, I BELIEVE, TO FIRST NOT ENTER THE FRAY AT ALL AND THEN USE INFERIOR WEAPONS OF OTHER NATIONS INCLUDING YUGOSLAVIA, BEFORE FINDING IT NECESSARY TO USE OURS.

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2. OUR CONCERN SHOULD BE HOW WE CAN HELP HEAL THE CIVIL WAR WOUNDS AND GET THEM ON TO SOME ROAD TO RECOVERY TOWARD HOPEFULLY BETTER THAN ANYTHING THEY HAVE KNOWN IN THE PAST.

3. ALL WARS ARE HELL BUT THIS CIVIL WAR ILLUSTRATES HOW CIVIL WARS ARE DOUBLY SO.

4. NO WAY COULD ANY INDEPENDENT EAST TIMORESE GOVERNMENT SURVIVE -- THEIR ONLY HOPE IS A UNION WITH INDONESIA AND, BECAUSE THE COUNTRY HAS SO LITTLE TO OFFER, THERE ISN'T TOO MUCH HOPE EVEN THEN.

5. THEIR ONLY EXPORT OF ANY MEANS WAS COFFEE, AND THESE PLANTINGS MUST BE RESTORED AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

6. THE INDONESIANS SHOULD HAVE ENTERED THE FRAY MUCH EARLIER AND PERHAPS MORE LIVES COULD HAVE BEEN SPARED.

7. THE YOUNG TIMORESE VICE GOVERNOR IS ONE OF THE MOST COMPASSIONATE LEADERS I HAVE EVER MET.

8. THE BISHOP, PRIESTS AND NUNS ALL INDICATED THAT THINGS HAVE BEEN BETTER THE LAST SEVERAL MONTHS AND ALL INDICATED IF THEY SEE SOMETHING WRONG BY THE INDONESIAN ARMY THE INDONESIAN LEADERSHIP LISTENS TO THEM AND CORRECTS THE PROBLEM AND THE SAME IS TRUE OF THE CIVIL AUTHORITIES. THEY DESPERATELY NEED MEDICAL SUPPLIES TO COMBAT MALARIA AND TUBERCULOSIS.

9. NO ONE CAN WANT THE AREA FOR ANY REASON OTHER THAN SECURITY FOR IT WILL BE A FINANCIAL NOOSE AROUND INDONE-

SIA'S NECK FOR YEARS TO COME AND MAYBE FOREVER. THE JAPANESE FAILED ON TWO OCCASIONS TO FIND ENOUGH OIL TO MAKE DRILLING PROFITABLE. THERE ARE BEAUTIFUL BEACHES AVAILABLE TO ATTRACT TOURISM -- BUT WHO HAS BILLIONS OF

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DOLLARS TO CONSTRUCT THE NECESSARY COMMUNICATION AND TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES AS WELL AS THE HOTELS?

10. THE INDONESIANS ESTIMATE THERE ARE STILL 2,000 TO 2,200 FRETILIN IN THE HILLS WHO HIT AND RUN ABOUT THREE TIMES A WEEK.

11. THE INDONESIAN COMMANDER AND THE YOUNG TIMORESE VICE GOVERNOR, LOPES DA CRUZ, ARE DEDICATED TO MAKING THE UNION WORK FOR THE BEST OF ALL TIMORESE AND TO PREVENT FURTHER SUFFERING.

12. I CAN ONLY SURMISE THAT THE AUSTRALIAN JIM DUNN MUST HAVE SOME PERSONAL INTEREST IN TRYING TO PREVENT THE UNION; HENCE HIS TRAVELING ABOUT TRYING TO BRING WORLD ATTENTION TO THE SITUATION. END QUOTE.
VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TIMOR, CODELS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE100498
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DTKENNEY:LGR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770156-0318
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770594/aaaaddpw.tel
Line Count: 198
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8b4f8c9a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2642570
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOODLING REPORT ON VISIT TO EAST TIMOR
TAGS: PINS, PFOR, SHUM, OREP, ID, PT, AS, (GOODLING, WILLIAM)
To: JAKARTA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8b4f8c9a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009